[Korea]

Cancer in Korea: Present features

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Cancer has been the leading cause of death in Korea since 1983 and it has steadily increased to 28% of the total deaths in 2009. The socioeconomic burden of cancer in Korea has dramatically increased from 11 billion dollars in 2002 to 14 billion dollars in 2005.

There are several factors that contribute to the increase of cancer in Korea. A rising obesity rate due to the westernized life style, high intake of salt, high smoking rate of males, 46% in 2008, stress due to big competition and hard working, and an increased aging population when the "baby boom" population is reaching old since Korean War.

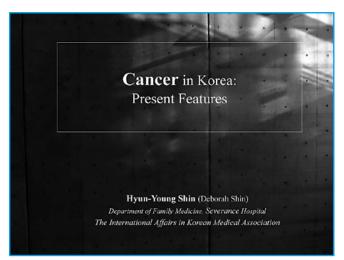
As for the incidence of cancer in Korea, in males, stomach cancer occurred most frequently, accounting for 20% of all cases, followed by colorectal, lung, liver and pancreatic cancer. In females, thyroid cancer occurred most frequently, accounting for 26% of all cases, followed by breast, stomach, colorectal and lung cancer. As for the trends of the incidence rates in males, the rates of colorectal and prostate cancers have been increasing, while in females, the rates of thyroid cancer have been sharply increasing. This may be the result of early detection and frequent radiation exposure. The five-year relative survival rates were 99% for thyroid cancer, over 80% for breast, prostate, and cervix uteri, 70% for colorectal cancer and 63% for stomach cancer in Korea.

To overcome cancer, the Korean Government established a new program, "the 1st 10-year Cancer Control Plan" including establishment of the Korea Central Cancer Registry, designation of National Cancer Prevention Day, launch of National R&D Program, financial support for cancer patients in 1996. Afterwards, they developed the National Cancer Screening Program, the National Cancer Control Committee, and the National Cancer Center. The 2nd 10-year Cancer Control Plan was started in 2006, focusing on strengthening cancer prevention by managing the risk factors and promoting early cancer detection, developing world class medical diagnosis and treatment techniques, and increasing support for rehabilitation and palliative care for cancer patients. In addition, the Korea Multicenter Cancer Cohort has functioned well since 1993 and Korea initiated the Asia Cohort study in 2005, collecting data from 10 Asian countries.

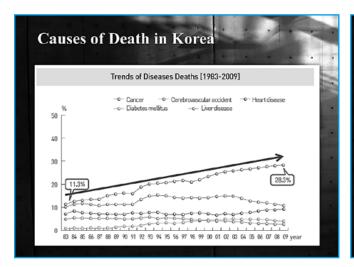
The sodium intake is decreasing after an extensive education campaign, the daily smoking rates of males have gone down to 39% in 2011 by increasing smoking restriction areas and education. And the lifetime cancer screening rate has risen to 72% in 2010. Finally, the 5-year cancer survival rate has improved to 62%. KMA believe that these efforts will continue to bring us better cancer results and improve the quality of life of patients.

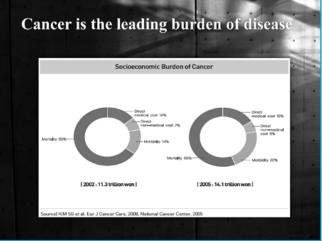
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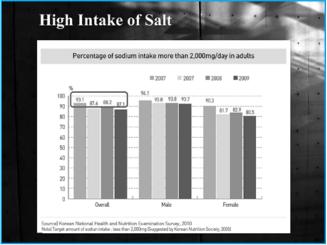


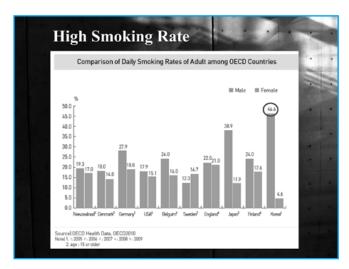


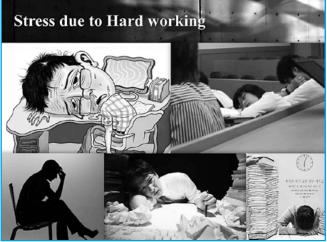


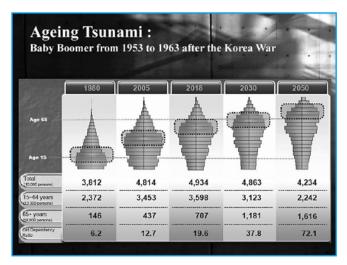




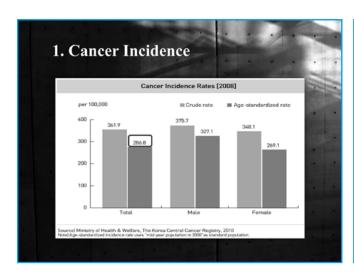


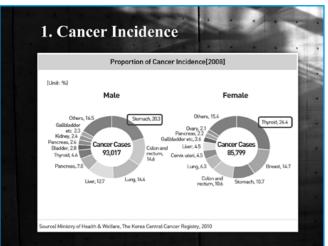


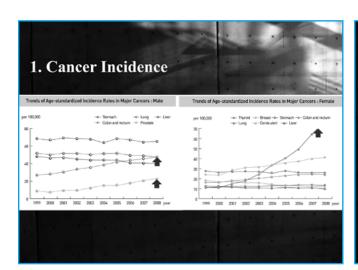


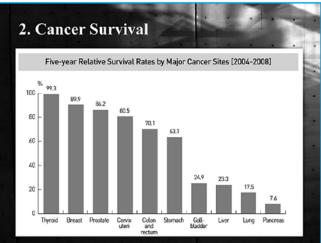


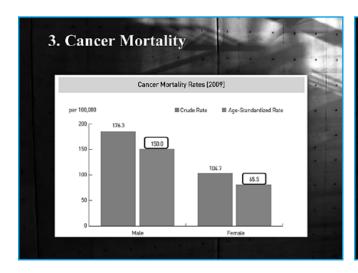


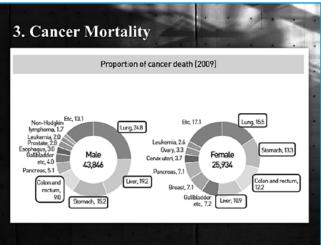


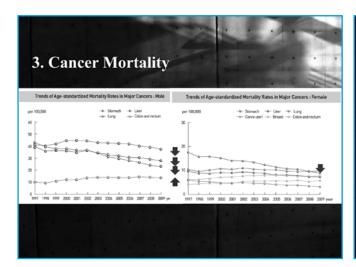




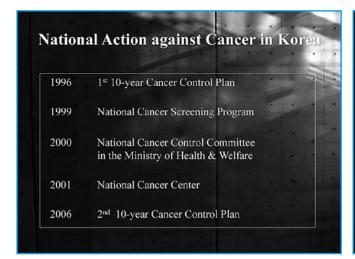




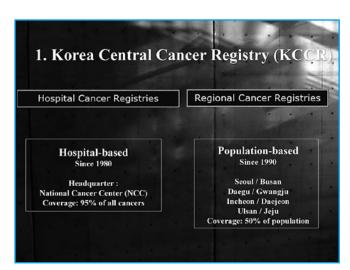








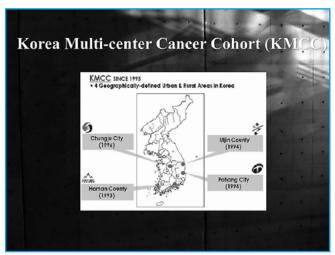




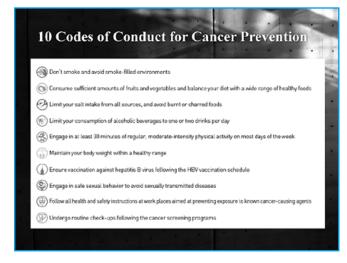


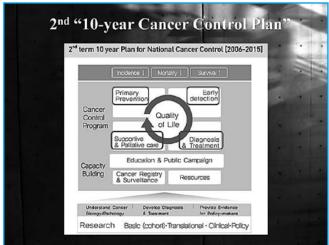


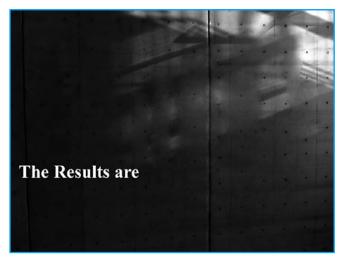


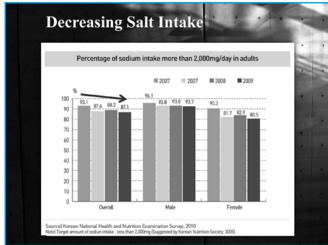


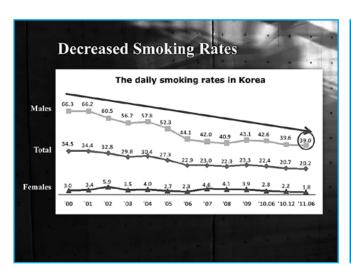


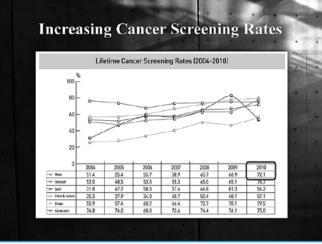


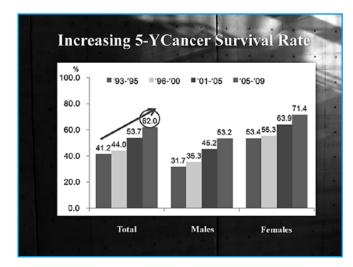














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